



United States Department of Interior

Fish & Wildlife Service

Lower Great Lakes Fishery Resources Office
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LOWER GREAT LAKES FISHERY RESOURCES OFFICE

MONTHLY REPORT December 2003



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Volunteers

Geoff Stevens, Brian Meyerhoefer

LAKE STURGEON RESTORATION

The second printing of the "*Lake Sturgeon: Giant of the Great Lakes*" brochures were distributed to the Service and partner offices this month. This brochure describes lake sturgeon history and current restoration activities.

Proceedings of the Great Lakes Lake Sturgeon Coordination Meeting, (12/11-12, 2002) were finalized and distributed on CD-ROM. The proceedings can also be found at:
<http://midwest.fws.gov/sturgeon>

LAKE TROUT RESTORATION

Betsy attended the Great Lakes Fish Team Meeting in Marquette, MI (12/9-10). The meeting focused on two areas: increasing lake trout production to meet stocking goals in the upper Great Lakes and

addressing the genetic diversity question in terms of how many strains each hatchery should maintain. The decision was made that hatchery facility improvements would be examined as a way to increase production and that there should be at least two, but preferably three lines of each strain. It was also decided that every other generation should be obtained from a wild population.

Betsy hosted a meeting of the Lake Erie Coldwater Task Group (12/15-16). The group reviewed the status of lake trout, lake whitefish, burbot, and rainbow trout populations, the sea lamprey control program, and was updated on the lake herring workshop. A report of the activities of this task group is prepared annually and distributed at the Lake Erie Committee Meeting at the end of March.

LAKE ERIE

Betsy attended a meeting of the Lake Erie Forage Task Group in Port Dover, Ontario (12/2-3). The group reviewed the 2003 forage fish and acoustic survey results, as well as trawl calibration and standardization efforts. A report of the activities of this task group is also prepared annually and distributed at the Lake Erie Committee Meeting at the end of March.

INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM

Coordination

Mike G. attended a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) meeting for natural resource pathways at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) (12/8-12). The HACCP process is designed to identify and correct critical points in natural resource work, where invasive species could be spread. Participants refined the lesson plans that will be

taught to natural resource professionals throughout the country starting in January, 2004.

Mike G. began participation in an Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Communications Project for the state of New Hampshire (12/22). This project seeks to create communication strategies for ANS issues to help states develop comprehensive ANS management programs.

the training was held at Jiminy Peak Resort in western Massachusetts (12/8-12).

This monthly report provides a brief, in-house report on recent activities, issues or events of the Lower Great Lakes Office. Its contents should not be used or cited elsewhere in any way without first contacting our staff. This is to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information.

Round Goby

Mike G. and Emily submitted a pre-proposal to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (12/30) titled, *“Investigation of the influence of round goby competition on growth of juvenile lake sturgeon.”* Goals of the project would include determining if growth rate of juvenile lake sturgeon is affected by factors such as goby aggression or competition.

HABITAT EVALUATION/RESTORATION

Mike W. attended a river corridor restoration site visit at Eighteenmile Creek in Newfane, New York (12/1). The downstream portion of the creek is part of a Lake Ontario Area of Concern (AOC). Its rehabilitation is being addressed through initiatives called for in the *“Eighteenmile Creek Remedial Action Plan”*. Others in attendance included representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, The Nature Conservancy, and Ecology and Environment. Future projects to create quality fish habitat and address stream bank stabilization needs within the watershed were identified and discussed.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Mike W. attended a planning meeting for the upcoming Great Lakes Student Summit, being held in western New York in May, 2004 (12/22). During the conference, the LGLFRO will be conducting an electrofishing demonstration and field discussion on Great Lakes fish communities.

STAFF TRAINING

Mike W. completed the Region 5 *“Leadership Pathway”* Program for 2003. The final portion of